

1.0.203

1.0.204

SPECIAL BRANCH REGISTRY.

File No. 5-0-203.

**SUBJECT**

Seizure of ammunition in Gordon Rd  
District.

C. I. D.  
I. O. R. Q.  
No. 203  
Date 29/3/16

# Shanghai Municipal Police.

Central Police

Station.

27th March

191 6

REPORT ON a seizure of arms at Pootung.

Made by D.S.I. Brewster

Forwarded by Chief Detective Inspector

Sir

In view of the seizure of ammunition in Gordon Road District the details of another seizure which occurred in 1903 may be of interest.

About the end of February 1903 the Customs Authorities with the assistance of the Chinese Police, seized a large quantity of ammunition which was in a warehouse situated near Lan Ngi Deu Pootung opposite the French Bund and leased by Messrs H.M. Schultz and Co and Telge and Schroeter. At the time of the seizure it appears that a Rebellion on a small scale was brewing in the Kwangsi Province, hence the activity of the Chinese Authorities. As a result of the seizure and the consequent investigations, the following letter from the German Consul General, preceded by Editorial comment, was published in the North China Daily News of the 6th March 1903.

Various statements have been current with reference with reference to a large quantity of arms and ammunition recently found at Pootung, and in justice to Messrs Telge and Schroeter we publish the following letter:-

Imperial German Consulate General,

Shanghai, 5th March 1903.b

Dear Sir

On behalf of Messrs Telge and Schroeter I have the honour to give you the following particulars about the cases of ammunition stored in the Chintung godown at Pootung:-

T.T.1/95- 95 cases Mauser cartridges, 200,000. ex Lyeemoon Alesia.  
3.2.1900.

1  
2  
3/16

# Shanghai Municipal Police.

Station.

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REPORT ON (2)

Made by ..... Forwarded by .....

T.K. 1/750- 750 cases Mauser cartridges, 1,500,000, ex Glenturret.  
26-2-1900.

passed under Government permits No 4261 and 4311 respectively.  
The 95 cases were originally ordered by the Shansi Government and  
the 750 cases by General Su Kung Pao.

General Su had placed an order into the hands of the Tientsin  
firm of Messrs Telge and Schroeter for 5000 rifles and straps, viz:  
T.T. 200/414- 215 cases imported 26.2.1900. S.S.Karlsruhe, stored  
China Merchants Wharf.

1,500,000 cartridges viz:

T.K. 1/750- 730 cases, imported 26.2.1900. SS Glenturret, stored  
Chintung godown Pootung.

1,000 rifles and straps, viz":

Tand S 1/41 - 41 cases, imported 5-2-1900. S.S.Karlsruhe.  
500,000 cartridges.

W.T.- 334 cases, imported 5-2-1900. Lyeemoon- Alesia.

All this cargo arriving when troubles were threatening in the  
North, Messrs Telge and Schroeter had to store the ammunition  
in Shanghai by order of this Consulate. The 1,000 rifles  
and 500,000 cartridges were transferred to H.E. Chang Chih-tung  
later on and transhipped to Hankow per s.s. "Suitai" the 7th  
July 1900 under special permission of this Consulate, whilst the  
6,000 rifles and 1,500,000 rounds of ammunition were still  
kept here. Owing to the dangerous nature of cartridges and  
the prohibition of storing them within the limits of the Settlement  
Telge  
Messrs and Schroeter had to find means of storing the cases  
outside those limits.

# Shanghai Municipal Police.

Station.

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## REPORT ON

Made by

Forwarded by

T.T. 1/95== 95 cases were therefore first stored in the Kiangnan Arsenal.

T.S.K. 1/750== 750 cases in the Chintung godowns in Pootung.

The general situation growing more critical the firm was ordered by the German Consulate to bring the cartridges back to Shanghai and to store them in H.B.M's Gaol according to an arrangement made by the German Authorities with H.B.M's Consul General in Shanghai. The cases were accordingly removed and stored in the Gaol till the end of last year.

As in October 1902 the gaol was in want of room  
<sup>Telg</sup> Messrs and Schroetter were asked to remove the cartridges to another place. In compliance herewith the goods were transferred again to Pootung to the same godown, where the 750 cases had been stored already before, and where they are still, unsold and the property of the firm.

I have communicated these facts to the Shanghai Taotai.

I have the Honour to be,

Dear Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) Dr. Knappe,

Consul General for Germany.

H.E. Hobson, Esq.,

Commissioner of Customs,

Shanghai.

Blind D.W. 9/1.

Yours Obedient Servant  
 W. Brewster. LL.

# Shanghai Municipal Police.

Central Police

Station.

28th March

191 6

## REPORT ON the seizure of ammunition in Gordon Road District.

Made by D.S.I.Brewster

Forwarded by

Sir

I have examined the boxes containing the ammunition referred to above, with a view to ascertaining whether the marks on the boxes correspond with those referred to in the letter from the German Consul General which I forwarded yesterday.

The marks do not correspond. Only one of the shell boxes is marked W.K. & Co while the other ammunition boxes are marked Q.R. or X.Z. with numbers.

Your Obedient Servant

W.Brewster

D.S.I.

Chief Det Insp.

Kem

# Shanghai Municipal Police.

Gordon Road

Station.

March 29<sup>th</sup>

1916

REPORT ON

Seizure of ammunition on Jersey Road.

Made by D. S. Sullivan.

Forwarded by

Chief Detective Inspector

Sir

I respectfully beg to report that I have been to the Customs to try to find out if the ammunition in question passed through the customs in the usual way. I saw the Deputy-Commissioner who informed me that it is against their regulations to give any information of this nature, and suggested that the Captain Superintendent write to the Commissioner for the desired information.

Attached is a list of the markings on the various cases.

One of the armour piercing shells has been opened and the words "Hotchkiss Paris" is written on the inside.

I beg to remain

Sir

Yours Obedient Servant  
J. Sullivan. D. S. 36.

The Chief Detective Inspector.

# Shanghai Municipal Police.

Central Police

Station.

28th March

1916

**REPORT ON** the seizure of ammunition at Gordon Road Station.

Made by D.S.I. Brewster

Forwarded by

Chief Detective Inspector.

Sir

This afternoon I accompanied a representative of the French Police and Neilson's Chauffeur, who is still in custody in Frenchtown, to Gordon Road Station in order to give the Chauffeur an opportunity of identifying the boxes of ammunition there. He stated that he had never seen long boxes similar to those containing the shells but he had carried in the car to his masters house on Siccawei Road, several boxes somewhat similar to that containing the pistol ammunition. He also stated that he had often driven past, but never stopped at No 1 Yu Yuen Road.

Your Obedient Servant

*Brewster*

D.S.I.

Chief Det Insp.

C. I. D.  
M. O. REC  
M. 1. O. 3  
D. 15. 4. 16

Translation of an extract from Deutsche Zeitung  
fur China dated 10th April 1916.

Don Quixote.

Very seldom has there been a case in the Mixed Court with so many suggestions. Very seldom had the M.C. through ignorance, falsehood and wickedness produced so many suggestions as the article in the North China Daily News from Saturday morning the 8th April shows. It is entitled "German plots in Shanghai". Perhaps there is a lot of Solomonic wisdom in the heads of the English Assessor Grant Jones and the Police Legal Adviser Newman. Yes they are heroes, heroes who have served their country. The forgery of a permit which nobody has seen and Newman's ghost ship the Deicke Rickmers. Sommers and Nielsen whom they do not even know by sight are accomplices.

The Chief of Police a man without manners in his behaviour against Mr. Sommers which was denied with impudence. The Chinese authorities who are bad conspirators and Nielsen who never dined at the German Consulate is called the "Weekly Fiffin guest".

A proper political case, similar to that in the French Mixed Court. Would that not be a glorious victory if they deported the German Consulate or do they think that with the deportation of the German Consulate, the Germans would be finished in China? Are we guests here? No. We have the same rights as the English, Americans, Swedes, Danes or Norwegians. Woe, woe to the scoundrels, who are trying to take our rights and want to drive us from House and Home.

**COPY**

Translation of an extract from the Deutsche Zeitung  
fur China dated 8th April 1916.

The Arms Case.

The case against the five Chinese who were charged in the Mixed Court on 25th March for breach of Municipal Regulations (re transportation of arms through the International Settlement) was resumed yesterday.

The Court acquitted the prisoners and the proceedings show that their arrest and Prosecution was illegal. As regards the ammunition seized judgement was reserved until to morrow.

During yesterday's proceedings the Police Legal Advisor Neuman took the liberty to make statements against the Deutsche Zeitung fur China which he called a scurrilous rag.

With due respect to the Court it was its duty to have put the Police legal adviser back to his proper place. Anyhow the insult does no harm to us. It shows merely English spite against everything German and as the English cannot prove their case they now seek to raise a wordy warfare. The poor English they have lost their pride, one defeat comes after another. They have 1 to 2 Milliards mark more expenses per month than the Germans and their old saying about "the free country" is on the rocks. Naturally the English show their temper against the Germans anywhere, everywhere and anyhow.

Regarding the statements of a no account Police Legal Advisor. With reference to our paper already viewed with displeasure by our enemies we pass them by as unworthy of notice for as far we are aware he is unable even to read it. Referring to the statement "scurrilous rag" this is as scarce value as a dog's barking at the moon.

*huncle*

C. I. D.  
F. O. REC

403

~~Subsequent~~ 6th June 1916

The case against the five Chinese who were charged in the Wined Court on 6th March for ~~breach of~~ <sup>transportation of</sup> Municipal Regulations (re ~~transfer of~~ <sup>transportation of</sup> arms through the International Settlement) was resumed yesterday.

The Court acquitted the prisoners, and the proceedings of the Court shows that their arrest and prosecution was illegal. As regards the ammunition seized, judgment was reserved until <sup>During</sup> tomorrow.

In yesterday's proceedings the Police legal adviser Newman took the liberty to make statements against the "Danteh Geitung for China", which he "called a seditious rag". With due regret to the Court, it was ~~that~~ its duty to have put the Police

## II.

legal adviser back to his proper place: anyhow the ~~soon~~ insult does no harm to us, it shows merely English spite against ~~anything~~ <sup>everything</sup> German and as the English cannot prove their case they now seek to raise a wordy warfare. The poor English ~~they~~ <sup>have</sup> lost their pride, one defeat comes after another. They have 150 millions mark more expenses per month than the Germans, and their old saying about "the free country" is on the stocks. Naturally the English show their temper against the Germans anywhere, everywhere and anyhow ~~they can~~.

Regarding the statements of a no account Police legal adviser with reference to our paper already <sup>viewed</sup> named with displeasure by our enemies, we pass them by as unworthy of notice.

II

for as far we are aware he is  
unable even to read it.

Referring to the statement various  
reg: This is as of much value as a dog's  
barking at the moon.

C. I. D.  
R. O. REGS 203  
No.....  
Date..... 3/13/16

Translation of copy of telegram:-

This Board has purchased from Tai Lai & Co. ~~for~~ two 37 p.m. quick firing guns, two 53 p.m. quick firing guns with 400 cartridges .. (or shells) packed in 44 boxes.. These have arrived in Shanghai and should be put into boats.

On the 23rd send a deputy to the said hong and arrange with Son Mer ~~for~~ a German merchant for the delivery.

Naval Board.

No. 208  
Date 28/3/16

The following is a translation of an extract from  
the Deutsche Zeitung fur China dated March 27th 1916:-

A new armscase.

The China Press of yesterday made a report in a rather large advertising style about the seizure of a quantity of ammunition on the Ferry Road. The transaction was quite legal as the result of the Police enquiries show but the China Press connected this affair in a rather shameless style with the Nialson case.

What really happened is this:-  
On Saturday morning whilst on patrol a English policeman of the S.M.P. noticed at the Ferry Road jetty a boat in charge of a Chinese in naval uniform. On being questioned by the Policeman he answered that he was waiting for ammunition which was to be shipped to the Arsenal. The Policeman telephoned the facts to the Gordon Rd Police Station and a Police Inspector arrived. A few minutes later a cart came along drawn by a pony followed by five Chinese and by Mr. H. Thomsen from Shanghai and Mr. Fritz Sommers from Tientsin. Mr. Sommers had a contract with the Chinese Government and had the necessary permit with him. The whole party then proceeded to the Gordon Rd Police Station at the request of the Police Inspector where the Chinese and the ammunition were detained. All the protest of the German gentlemen were of no avail. Mr. Sommers, Mr. Thomsen and the Chinese official then went to see the Chief of the S.M.P. Mr. Ma Eung who told them that they required a permit. Mr. Sommers who is a stranger in Shanghai obtained a permit from the German Consulate which was also signed by the Senior Consul (The Belgian Consul General, Siffert) but still the Police refused to release the Chinese and the ammunition. The Chinese were taken to the Mixed Court this morning before the English Assessor Mount Jones and at the request of the Police the case was remanded till Friday.  
Mr. Muaso appeared for the Chinese Government. After the loud advertising of the China Press a surprisingly tame article was published by the North China Daily News.  
The arrest of the five Chinese and the seizure of the ammunition by the Police is illegal it is against the 5th Law 527 of the Land Regulations which says that permit is not required whilst shipping arms and ammunition through the International Settlement if in charge of a responsible official in this case the transport was accompanied by a Chinese naval officer.

I. O. REC  
Date 6/4/16  
660 2023

Translation of an extract from the Deutsche Zeitung  
fur China dated 1st April 1916.

Two Political proceedings.  
The last arms transactions.

At the Mixed Court proceedings were again continued against the five Chinese charged with transporting ammunition through the Settlement.

The proceedings were purely political it does not matter to the Court what becomes of the Chinese as the English authorities only want to score points against the German Government.

The statement about the breach of the Land Regulations 37 is untrue as the cargo was accompanied by a naval officer in uniform according to the rules.

The Police of the International Settlement is working hard to connect this affair with the alleged German plots as the evidence of a British employee of the Kiangnan wharf, R.M. Mauchan, shows. The evidence was given in such a way that the public should think that the s.s. Deike Rickmers had shifted her berth for the sole purpose of getting the four guns on board and to disappear suddenly from the river and to appear somewhere suddenly as an armed cruiser.

Admiral Wong was made to look like a traitor who works hand in hand with the German Government. Had Mr. Mauchan the right to give the secrets of the Chinese Government away in a open Court? The best part of the proceedings was the evidence of Mr. Sommer and he made the Police look small. The Court wanted to know the whereabouts of four guns as a letter from the Commissioner of the Customs produced in Court showed no records but Mr. Sommers soon straightened the matter in going back to the year 1900 and mentioning the name of the s.s. Holusatia. The Commissioner of Customs appeared not to know his own books. It was a surprise to the Court. But what

about the question where are the four guns? If the Chief of the Police Mr. Mc Euen had attended to his business properly instead of running to the Kiangnan races, and betting on ponies he would be a wiser man now. Then the permit issued by the German Consulate and signed by the Senior Consul which was produced to him by Mr. Sommers had the number of the godown and the name of the street where the four guns were but now after the treatment Mr. Sommers received from the Police it is up to them to find it out.

It is well that a man not connected with Shanghai told the truth about the International Police. The Police is purely a British Concern who take its instructions only from the English authorities. But all the rubbish in this affair did not help the unfortunate five Chinese who are still in custody as the case is remanded till next Wednesday.

Worth, with the 8<sup>th</sup> day, debtors etc.  
one. - 1000

Translation of an extract from the Deutsche Zeitung  
fur China dated April 8th 1916.

A wise and just Judge.

A second Daniel.

We have received particulars about the judgement over the last arms transaction which finished at the Mixed Court yesterday.

The English Press calls the judgement a masterpiece but if everybody thinks so that's a question, it only shows how the English fear the Germans.

We admit there is a breach of the Bye Law 33 regards the storing of ammunition at Thompson's house No.1 Yu Yuen Road but don't forget that it is practically impossible for a German merchant to get a godown especially from neutrals, thanks to the clever work of the English.

In the godown where the four guns are, <sup>am</sup>munition is not allowed to be stored, and as the Thompson's house was suitable it was put there.

The arrest of the five Chinese was illegal but the Police do not care, it seems to be the practice now in both Settlements.

The captured ammunition was the property of the Chinese Government and that's why there was no application for a German Assessor. The Court thought that \$20 for the hire of a van was unusually high but what about the Shanghai Horse Bazaar and their charges and there is another thing, it is very remarkable that the Police Legal Advisor had forgotten to mention the presence of a Chinese officer in uniform when the ammunition was seized. The presence of a Chinese officer in uniform covers the Bye Law 37. The Police had no right to open the boxes and have no right to ask for a permit, there is no such law.

When Mr. Sommers asked the Police Legal Adviser where he could get a permit, the Police Legal Adviser could not answer. The permit issued by the German Consulate was only done to oblige the Chinese Government.

We have from good authority that the English Minister at Peking had asked the Chinese authorities for information regards the contracts which are in Germans hands. It shows the English are after German business again but we wont quarrel about that.

We are absolutely sure that the English Assessor has made knowingly a false statement regards the expression of the Chief of Police Mc Euen.

The official Chinese Government permit, when it was shown to Mc Euen in the presence of Messrs Sommers and Thomsen and in the presence of the Chinese officer, was returned with the remark, "No damned use" and he also used the same expression to the Chinese officer when he produced the written authority from Admiral Wong.

We don't deny that the figure 35 was added to the originally figure 44 but it was done by the proper Chinese Authorities and it is not a forgery, only an economical business transaction. The reason why Mr. Sommers has not produced the permit in Court, is because the permit belonged to the Chinese Government and he had no authority over it.

The Assessor in this case is the same official who heard the "Medicine for India" case and who called himself at that time an "official of His Majesty of Great Britain." To make it short the so-called master piece of judgment was given under the instructions of higher authority.

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Translation of an extract from Deutsche Zeitung  
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*an unimportant*

*cut  
by*

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Mr. Musso appeared for the Chinese Government. After the loud advertising of the China Press a surprisingly tame article was published by the North China Daily News.

The arrest of the five Chinese and the seizure of the ammunition by the Police is illegal it is against the Mye Law #27 of the Land Regulations which says that permit is not required whilst shipping arms and ammunition through the International Settlement if in charge of a responsible official in this case the transport was accompanied by a Chinese naval officer.

On  
H

O. I. D.  
F. O. REC  
243

## Shanghai Municipal Police No. 134/16

CENTRAL

Station.

April 7th, 1916.

## REPORT ON watching of godowns.

Made by D. S. I. Burnside.

Forwarded by

Chief Detective Inspector

Sir,

Judgement in the "Arms Case" having to-day been given in the Mixed Court, I beg to ask for instructions in discontinuing the watching of the following godowns:-

Garrels Borner & Coy. Balfour Road.

Sander Wieler & Coy. Balfour Road.

Diederichsen & Coy. Kiangse Road.

Since detectives have been watching, no cargo has either entered these godowns with the exception of the latter firm who despatched some small cases of nails to a Chinese firm.

Your obedient servant,

Det: Sub Insp.

*C.O.Y.*  
Discontinue watch -  
12  
2/16.



Chief Detective Inspector.

*Detectives withdrawn  
10.30 am. 12.4.16. J.B.*